

US010115  
09/817,978**In the Specification:***Please amend the Specification as follows:*

On page 4, please amend the paragraph beginning on line 10 as follows:

What is needed is an operating method and corresponding structure that will permit a PTR to determine whether or not a settop box is operating before commencing a scheduled recording event. What is also needed is a method and corresponding structure which ~~permit~~ will permit a PTR to attempt corrective action with respect to a non-operational settop box and to recognize whether the corrective action has been effective. What is also needed is a method and corresponding structure which permits the PTR to notify the user that the settop box is not operating and to suspend recording operations until the problem with the settop box has been rectified. Beneficially, the method permits the PTR to generate the series of control signals for application to the settop box that permits the PTR to characterize the operational state of the settop box.